

March 10, 2016

Dear Insurance Committee of Connecticut General Assembly,

I am writing in Support HB 5517. My name is Rico Dence, and I have Chronic Myeloid Leukemia CML, and I am homeless. One of the main reasons, I am homeless is the cost of my medication. I had to figure out my minimum threshold of income I need to make in order to pay for my medical. I learned I have to make a minimum 40,000 a year to cover of my cancer and living expenses.

As some of you know I worked as a sessional assistant clerk for the General Assembly from 2012- 2015. The Leukemia I have is Chronic and I take a daily chemo pill called Sprycel. The cost of Sprycel is 11,200 a month for 100mg tablet. It is a pill in the same family of the Gleevec Chemo Medication. In 2000, the Federal Drug Administration approved Gleevec. I have communicated with people who have been taking Gleevec for 15 years. Majority of the people with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia are expected to live a normal life span, and will take a daily chemo medication for the rest of their lives.

According to <https://www.healthpocket.com/individual-health-insurance/platinum-health-plans#.VuGIXI-cHIU> An individual at the age of 60 will have to pay monthly $1,154.51 \times 12 = 13,854.12$ for Obamacare Platinum package. A person in their 40 pays $543.68 \times 12 = 6524.16$ Their out of pocket maximum is \$2000.00 for the platinum package. A family of 4 would pay \$813 per month (\$9,751 per year) for Obamacare silver plan, and their maximum out of pocket would be 13,700.

By approving the piece of legislation you are basically, allowing the maximum yearly pay out to be paid throughout the year. Majority of CML patients will see the doctor, oncologist, blood work, and that will result in the maximum out of pocket expense through out of the year verse in the first quarter of the year.

A friend of mine name Shea was diagnosed Acute Myeloid Leukemia. She takes 9 different mediations a month. When she was diagnosed she did not have the funds to pay for her medications. This bill will allow her to pay for the same amount of maximum out of pocket expenses over the year than trying to figure how to pay for their medication within the first couple of months.

The passage of the legislation would help people and families who deal with a chronic health condition from cancer to arthritis, and even AIDs to pay out there maximum out of pocket expenses throughout the year than at beginning of each calendar year.

Thank for your consideration,



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Homeless in Connecticut with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia